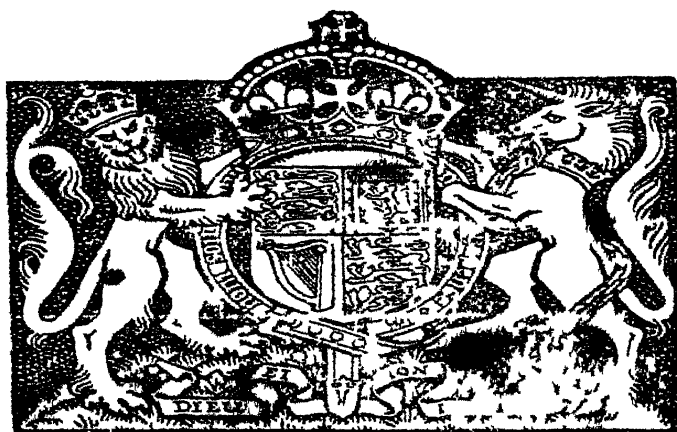


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THE PREPARATION OF THE GENERAL INDEX

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The general index for the first twenty-five volumes of *Soil Science* represents a condensed summary of investigations in the various fields of soil science, covering a period of more than a decade. Soil science has made rapid strides within the last decade. It allied itself with the fundamental sciences of biology, physics, and chemistry in an attempt to solve the riddles of the soil-plant relationships. The general index reflects the relation of soil science to the fundamental sciences.

The index has been prepared so that the contents of the journal may be made more readily accessible. There will be no need of turning to the table of contents of each volume, which in itself is not complete, as it gives only titles of papers. Neither are the individual volume indexes sufficiently complete. They are, for this reason, of limited value. This is especially true of the early volumes. It was felt, therefore, that a general index prepared from the original papers, with no reference to the existing single volume indexes, would aid greatly in the orientation of the material published in *Soil Science*.

The index as compiled is a classified directory of investigations conducted and recorded. The trained worker in the field of soil science will readily find in the index the particular subject in which he is interested; and the novice will find it a helpful guide. He will be able to avoid unnecessary repetitions, to obtain leads in the various branches of the science, and to utilize the facts known and interpreted in the pages of the first twenty-five volumes of *Soil Science*.

The index reflects the development of the science. One may note, for instance, that the entries on ammonification, frequent in the earlier volumes, gradually decrease. There was a time when the soil biological investigations were centering around ammonification studies. Gradually, however, the nature of the process was elucidated and found to be less important than anticipated for an insight into the microbiological activities of the soil. A similar development of the other branches of soil science may be traced from the pages of the index.

In compiling the index, thoroughness, accuracy, and consideration for the user were duly stressed.

Many subjects were cross-referenced and some were repeatedly indexed under different headings. The latter meant a repetition of the indexed subject, but it should prevent the searcher from missing the subject. For example, one would expect to find the subject of "Roterde" indexed under "Soil" or "Soils," but it is also given

The material in the index was so arranged as to stimulate the searcher—to give him a lead to the other topics which may have a bearing on the subject. Thus if one studies the value of ammonium sulfate he should be led into the field of nitrification.

In many cases the senior author of the index placed himself in the position of index-user whenever a decision had to be made as to the best heading to be selected for a particular entry. However, this procedure was not allowed to overemphasize the significance of the personal equation.

An effort has been made to eliminate word indexing as far as possible and to compile entries under one heading. To be sure, this last task was not fully accomplished. The traditional use of terms like "Lime," "Liming," "Calcium Carbonate," or "Limestone" has been retained, even though they may refer to the same thing. There is no authoritative plan as to which of these terms is to be preferred. "Acidity" and "H-ion Concentration" offer another example. In the indexing of any of these terms the usage of the author was respected.

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THE GENERAL INDEX

This general index for volumes 25 through 50 of SOIL SCIENCE is a compilation of names of contributors to, and of subjects treated in, the journal during the second half of the first quarter century of its existence. In over-all plan and purpose, this index differs little from the general index of the first twenty-five volumes. Like the previous compilation, for example, the subject index was prepared from the original papers, with only occasional reference to existing single-volume indexes.

Two innovations introduced in 1936 in the single-volume indexes have been carried over into this general index for convenience of users.

The first of these is the method of listing book reviews. In the previous general index, entries for book reviews, which were comparatively few in number, were scattered throughout the author and subject indexes. In the second twenty-five volumes, many more books were reviewed. These reviews, indexed according to authors and subjects, have been segregated within the general subject index under the heading "Books" and placed at the end of letter B.

The other innovation in the present index is the alphabetical listing under "Soil series, analyses, descriptions of, or experiments with" of the individual series involved. This entry includes all soil series recorded in the entire twenty-five volumes as objects of study. With the increasing importance attached to correlation of soils, more and more workers are finding need for readily available information on specific soil series. This entry, intended as a complete listing, is presented to meet this need.

The index was compiled by Muriel E. Weinberger and Theresa S. Borak under general supervision of the editors.

THE EDITORS.

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